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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			CHOW, CHIH CHING	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/025,758	Applicant(s) MATSUSHIMA, HIROYUKI	
	Examiner Chih-Ching Chow	Art Unit 2192	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/26/04, 6/9/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

✓

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to amendment dated January 05, 2005.
2. Per Applicants' request, specification, claims 1-6, 9-10, 14-16, 18-19, 22-23, and 27-28 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-28 remain pending.

Response to Amendment

4. Applicant's amendment dated 01/05/2005, responding to the 10/05/2004 Office action provided in the specification objections for spelling out the MFP and using of the Trademarks. The examiner has reviewed the updated specification respectfully.
5. The objection to the specification is hereby withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendment to the specification.
6. Applicant's amendment filed on 01/05/2005, responding to the 10/05/2004 Office action provided in the objection of Claims 10 and 18. The examiner has reviewed the amended Claims 10 and 18 respectfully.
7. The objection to the objection of Claims 10 and 18 are hereby withdrawn in view of Applicant's claims 10 and 18 amendment.
8. Applicant's amendment filed on 01/05/2005, responding to the 10/05/2004 Office action provided under the 35 USC § 112 (2nd) rejection for Claims 3, 14, 16, 27 and 28. The examiner has reviewed the amendment respectfully. Claims 3, 14, 16, 27 and 28 remain pending.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's argument for Claims 1-28 under 35 USC § 103 have been fully considered respectfully by the examiner but they are not persuasive. The English translation of the original Japanese application 2001-094342 to perfect priority for the current application priority date, March 28, 2001, has been received and considered. For the Applicant's convenience the rejections are listed as below, listed claims include the amendments requested by the Applicants.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claims 1-7, 14-20, 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,933,584 by Yoshio Maniwa (hereinafter "Maniwa").

CLAIM

1. An image formation system comprising:

(i) an image formation apparatus connected to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section, wherein said image formation apparatus capable of providing one or more services of a printer, a copier, or a facsimile; and

(ii) a server connected the network, said server providing a software component to said image formation apparatus via said network, wherein said image formation apparatus includes:

(iii) a selection unit that selects a desired software component from a list software components accumulated in said server and displayed on said display section;

(iv) an acquisition unit that acquires the software component acquired by said selection unit and authentication information from said server; and

(v) a control unit that controls processing operation of the software component acquired by said acquisition unit based on the authentication information acquired by said acquisition unit.

Maniwa

Maniwa teaches an image formation system connected to a network, which has one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section. See Maniwa FIG. 1, a printer, a facsimile, and image server machine are connected to a network, various servers are connected to the network. Also see column 1, lines 8-13, "The present invention relates to a network system in which a plurality of workstations are connected through a network to each other, and more particularly to a network system for unified business used to build such systems as a printing system, a facsimile system, and an electronic circulation system making use of workstations already installed". Also see Maniwa column 3, lines 9-13, "a plurality of workstations each with a menu software having a function to select (via a selection unit) and call (via an acquisition unit) a job style file for users specific (defined in authentication information) to a self machine from job style files for individual users (based on the authentication information) residing in the print server file, change the contents and again store the file in the print server software (via a control unit)". In addition to the above, Maniwa also teaches an authentication process for the facsimile sever, see column 7, lines 14-19, "Also it is desirable that the facsimile server

software has a function to detect ID of received data, a function to maintain a table for comparison between IDs and **names of users** of individual workstations, a function to send the received message, when correspondence between the received ID and a workstation, only to the workstation, and a function to send the received message".

2. The image formation system according to claim 1, wherein said control unit restricts a range of resources available in said image formation apparatus for the software components, based on the authentication information.

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. For the rest feature of claim 2 see Maniwa, column 11, lines 47-48-53, "A scanner 115 can be connected via SCSIs 108b, 115a to the imager server machine 108, and also an ODD (optical disk device) 116 can be connected via an SCSI 108c to the imager server machine 108. An SCSI card is inserted into an extension slot of a PC, and a plurality of cards can be inserted into the extension slot. Any number of units may be connected **within a possible range.**"

3. The image formation system according to claim 2, wherein when authentication based on the authentication information has failed, said control unit specifies minimum resources so that said display section and operation panel section of the resources become available for the software components, and when the authentication based on authentication information has succeeded, said control

For the feature of claim 2 see claim 2 rejection. Maniwa's disclosure inquires service that is dedicated to different workstations, see column 30, lines. 17-29, "the image server software has a function to receive and store character data or graphic data to be circulated each transferred and supplied as input from a console, an auxiliary memory device (a floppy disk or a compact disk) or a workstation, a function to make an

unit specifies that all the resources are available for the software components.

inquiry as to whether each workstation can display image data or not and types of possible display or print language and store the result of the inquiry, and a filter function to convert image data to those which can be displayed or printed by each workstation or the printer, so that character/graphic data and image data can be treated similarly and the system cost can be minimized." - the inquiry process is an 'authentication' based function.

4. The image formation system according to claim 3, wherein the authentication information includes information related to rights for using the respective resources by the software components, and said control unit decides whether the software components can use the resources based on the information related to using rights.

For the feature of claim 3 see claim 3 rejection. For the rest of claim 4 feature see claim 1 rejection.

5. The image formation system according to claim 1, wherein said image formation apparatus further comprises a transmission unit that transmits configuration information for said image formation apparatus to said server when succeeding in authentication based on the authentication information, and said server organizes software components executable on said image formation apparatus based on the

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. Maniwa teaches transmission of facsimile software when authentication condition succeeds, see column 7, lines 20-65.

configuration information received from said image formation apparatus, and sends the organized software components back to said image formation apparatus.

6. The image formation system according to claim 5, wherein said transmission unit transmits identification information for identifying said image formation apparatus to said server, and

Same as claim 5 rejection.

said server identifies one or more of configuration information and a contract form of said image formation apparatus based on the identification information received from said image formation apparatus, organizes software components executable on said image formation apparatus based on the identified configuration information and/or contract form, and sends the organized software components back to said image formation apparatus.

7. The image formation system according claim 1, wherein said server WWW server functioning the Internet, and

said image formation apparatus further provides a browser with which pages described in HTML are browsed.

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. For the rest of claim 7 feature see Maniwa, column 1, lines 22-28, "a communication server in which communicating functions for communications with other network systems (or computer systems) through a wide area network (WWW) are concentrated", it's well known to the people in the art to use HTML

implemented pages via browser in order to browse data in wide area network.

14. A software acquisition method comprising:
 connecting an image formation apparatus and a server to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section;
 providing one or more of services of a printer, copier, facsimile;
 providing a software component to said image formation apparatus from said server, wherein said image formation apparatus performs steps of:
 selecting a desired software component from a list of software components accumulated said server and displayed on said display section;
 acquiring selected software component and authentication information from said server; and
 controlling a processing operation of the acquired software component based on the acquired authentication information.

Maniwa's disclosure is a software acquisition method. Same as claim 1 rejection.

15. The software acquisition method according to claim 14, wherein the controlling step restricts a range of resources available in said image formation apparatus for the software component, based on the authentication

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 1 and claim 2 rejection.

information.

16. The software acquisition method according to claim 15, wherein, when authentication based on authentication information has failed, the controlling step specifies minimum resources so that said display section and operation panel section of the resources become available for the software components, when authentication based on the authentication information has succeeded, said controlling step specifies that all the resources are available for the software components.

For the feature of claim 15 see claim 15 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 3 rejection.

17. The software acquisition method according to claim 16, wherein the authentication information includes information related to rights for using the respective resources by the software components, and the controlling step decides whether the software components can use the resources based on the information related to the using rights.

For the feature of claim 16 see claim 16 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 4 rejection.

18. The software acquisition method according claim 14, further comprising: transmitting configuration information for said image formation apparatus to said server when said image formation apparatus has succeeded in authentication based on the authentication information, wherein

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of the features see claim 5 rejection.

said server organizes software components executable on said image formation apparatus based on the configuration information received from said image formation apparatus, and sends the organized software components back to said image formation apparatus.

19. The software acquisition method according to claim 18, wherein

For the feature of claim 18 see claim 18 rejection. For the rest of the features see claim 6 rejection.

in the transmitting step, identification information for identifying said image formation apparatus transmitted to said server, and

said server identifies one or more configuration information and a contract form of said image formation apparatus based on the identification information received from said image formation apparatus, organizes software components executable on said image formation apparatus based on the identified configuration information and/or contract form, and sends the organized software components back to said image formation apparatus.

20. The software acquisition method according to claim 14, wherein said server
Internet, and

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 7 rejection.

said image formation apparatus has a browser with which pages described HTML are browsed.

27. A computer readable recording medium for storing instructions, which when executed on a computer, causes the computer to realize a software acquisition method in an image formation system which connects an image formation apparatus and a server to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section and for providing one or more of services of a printer, a copier, or a facsimile, and said server providing a software component to said image formation apparatus, wherein said image formation apparatus performs steps of:
selecting a desired software components accumulated in said server and displayed on said display section;
acquiring the selected software component and authentication information from said server; and
controlling a processing operation of the acquired software component based on the acquired authentication information.

Same as claim 1 rejection.

28. A computer program for causing a computer to realize a software acquisition method in an image formation system which connects image formation apparatus and a server to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or more hardware resources of a

Same as claim 1 rejection.

display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section and for providing one or more of services of a printer, a copier, or a facsimile, and said server providing a software component to said image formation apparatus, wherein said image formation apparatus performs steps of:

- selecting a desired software component from a list of software components accumulated said server and displayed on said display section;
- acquiring selected software component and authentication information from said server; and
- controlling a processing operation of the acquired software component based on the acquired authentication information.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 1-7, 14-20, 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2002/0026538, by Akinori Takeo et al. (hereinafter "Takeo") with a priority date of July 25, 2000, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,314,565

by Brian Kenner (hereinafter "Kenner"), and further in view of US2002/0015180 by Masahiko Tominaga (hereinafter "Tominaga") with a priority date of May 30, 2000.

CLAIM

1. An image formation system comprising:

(i) an image formation apparatus connected to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section, wherein said image formation apparatus capable of providing one or more services of a printer, a copier, or a facsimile; and

Takeo / Kenner / Tominaga

In Takeo, paragraph 0053, "FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an example of a peripheral device constituting an embodiment of the present invention, the peripheral device having a compound **image processing function** capable of processing a job by an **image input function**, a **print function** and a **facsimile transmission/reception function**" (*one or more hardware resources*). In paragraph 5, "there is already known an apparatus which, after receiving a password together with print data transmitted from a host apparatus, **receives a password entered by the user through the operation panel** and starts printing only in case the entered password matches the transmitted password" (*authentication*); in paragraph 56, "A user interface 6 composed of an LCD display and a keyboard displays information from the controller (*Control unit*) 1 and transmits the instruction from the user to the controller 1."; and in paragraph 65, "job such as **printing, scanning, copying or facsimile transmission/reception** to the MFP 31 through the network". See Takeo's FIG. 1-3, the disclosed prior art that has one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a

wherein said image formation apparatus includes:

(iii) a selection unit that selects a desired software component from a list software components accumulated in said server and displayed on said display section;

printing section, and an image pickup section, which correspond to claimed image formation apparatus

For item iii 'selection unit', in Takeo, paragraph 190, "The user input

(selection of an item in the list box or depression of a button) is executed

through the keyboard 24 of the

peripheral device or through the

keyboard 44 and the pointing device 45

of the PC 32 to 34."; in paragraph 196,

"The user can select desired set values

in the list boxes"; both sentences imply

that Takeo's art has a selection unit to

process user's selection. Takeo teaches

all features in this claim, however he

didn't specifically mention selecting 'a

list of software components', however in

Kenner's abstract, "A method for

updating software components on a user

terminal connected to a network

provides for the automatic

identification, retrieval, and installation

of a selection of software components."

It would have been obvious to a person

of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the invention was made to supplement

Takeo's control unit/printing

unit/display section, an operation panel

section, a printing section/image pickup

section network, with the acquisition

unit for a selection of software

components further taught by Kenner,

for the purpose of selecting a desired

software component (see Kenner

Abstract, 3rd line).

(iv) an acquisition unit that acquires the software component acquired by said selection unit and authentication information from said server; and

(v) a control unit that controls processing operation of the software component acquired by said acquisition unit based on the authentication information acquired by said acquisition unit.

For item iv, in Takeo, paragraph 93, "At a step 81 requests the acquisition of the 'attribute list supported by the job' to the peripheral device and acquires such attribute list. Then a step 82 discriminates whether an attribute A required by the driver software is contained in the 'attribute list supported by the job' acquired in the step 81," and in claim 19, "An information processing apparatus for generating a job and issuing the generated job to a peripheral device, comprising: acquisition means for acquiring, from the peripheral device,". Further, In Kenner, column 4, lines 28-30, "A system and a method are provided whereby the identification, acquisition, (*authentication information*) and installation of multimedia computer software is automated." Both Takeo and Kenner have taught the 'acquisition unit' and authentication information feature in the current invention.

For item v, in Tominaga's abstract, "unauthorized use of image processing software operating on image forming devices for generating image data to be supplied to image forming devices, can be prevented." Further in claim 5, "control means (*control unit*) for restricting a number of image forming devices capable of receiving image data outputted from said image output means", this implies that an authentication process done by a control

unit using the authentication information has been taught by Tominaga's art.

(ii) a server connected the network, said server providing a software component to said image formation apparatus via said network,

For item ii, in Takeo paragraph 0063, "FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing an example of the configuration of a **network** system in which the peripheral device shown in FIG. 1 is applicable", Takeo teaches all the aspect about network but does not specifically mentioned a server is connected to the network for an image formation apparatus. However, Tominaga has taught this in an analogous prior art, in Tominaga, claim 1, "**An image forming system** including a **server** and client computers connected to a **network**". It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to supplement Takeo's control unit/printing unit/display section, an operation panel section, a printing section/image pickup section network, with the server and network feature further taught by Tominaga, for the purpose of printing a certain job via a LAN using a dedicated hardware (see Tominaga, paragraph 4).

2. The image formation system according to claim 1, wherein said control unit restricts a range of resources available in said image formation apparatus for the software components, based on the authentication

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. For the rest feature of claim 2 see Takeo paragraph 5, "**the operation panel** and starts **printing** only in case the entered password matches the transmitted password" Takeo teaches

information.

the feature of only if the authentication information has succeeded, the operation panel section will be available. Also, in Tominaga, paragraph 142, "the server-side protector interface 115 invalidates the **license information** of the protectors which have handed over the license information, when the license information of each of the protectors is stored in the one protector. This **prevents unauthorized copying** of license information." Both Takeo and Tominaga's arts have taught an **authentication** step has to be done before using resources. If the authentication has failed, the **control unit** will not allow the printing to proceed (see 112(2) rejection above).

3. The image formation system according to claim 2, wherein

when authentication based on the authentication information has failed, said control unit specifies minimum resources so that said display section and operation panel section of the resources become available for the software components, and when the authentication based on authentication information has succeeded, said control unit specifies that all the resources are available for the software components.

For the feature of claim 2 see claim 2 rejection. In Tominaga paragraph 235, "the present invention encompasses cases not only where the computer executing the supplied program code manifests the functions of the above embodiments, but also where the operating system or the like running on the computer performs **part or all** (*can provide part of the complete resources, same as 'minimum resources'*) of the actual processing according to the instructions of the program code, thereby manifesting the functions of the above embodiments."

4. The image formation system

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1

according
to claim 3, wherein
the authentication information
includes information related to rights
for using the respective resources by
the software components, and
said control unit decides whether the
software components can use the
resources based on the information
related to using rights.

rejection. Same as claim rejection 3, a
correct password can be the authorized
rights to use the respective resources.

See claim 1 item (v) rejection.

5. The image formation system
according to claim 1, wherein said image
formation apparatus further comprises
a transmission unit that transmits
configuration information for said image
formation apparatus to said server when
succeeding in authentication based on
the authentication information, and
said server organizes software
components executable on said image
formation apparatus based on the
configuration information received from
said image formation apparatus, and
sends the organized software
components back to said image
formation apparatus.

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1
rejection. In Takeo claim 1,
"transmission means for transmitting,
from the peripheral device to the
information processing apparatus". In
Takeo paragraph 177, "it is rendered
possible to cause the user of the
information processing apparatus to
identify the start mode executable by
the peripheral device, by analyzing the
attribute information indicating the
designatable job process start modes,
and to arbitrarily set the optimum start
mode selected from thus identified
start modes according to such attribute
information in the peripheral device by
the control command" -- therefore
Takeo teaches the software component
executable on the image formation
apparatus in his disclosure.

6. The image formation system
according to claim 5, wherein
said transmission unit transmits
identification information for

For the feature of claim 5 see claim 5
rejection. For the rest of claim 6
feature see claim 1 rejection.

identifying said image formation apparatus to said server, and

said server identifies one or more of configuration information and a contract form of said image formation apparatus based on the identification information received from said image formation apparatus, organizes software components executable on said image formation apparatus based on the identified configuration information and/or contract form, and sends the organized software components back to said image formation apparatus.

7. The image formation system according to claim 1, wherein said server WWW server functioning the Internet, and

said image formation apparatus further provides a browser with which pages described in HTML are browsed.

In Tominaga, paragraph 4, "users have performed **image forming** by selecting a desired printer from a computer and causing the selected printer to print a certain job via an general-purpose interface such as a **LAN or an interface** using dedicated hardware", Tominaga did not limit what LAN interface, therefore a browser with HTML described pages also applies.

14. A software acquisition method comprising:

connecting an image formation apparatus and a server to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section;

Same as claim 1 rejection.

providing one or more of services of a printer, copier, facsimile;
providing a software component to said image formation apparatus from said server, wherein said image formation apparatus performs steps of:
selecting a desired software component from a list of software components accumulated said server and displayed on said display section;
acquiring selected software component and authentication information from said server; and
controlling a processing operation of the acquired software component based on the acquired authentication information.

15. The software acquisition method according to claim 14, wherein the controlling step restricts a range of resources available in said image formation apparatus for the software component, based on the authentication information.

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 1 item (v) and claim 2 rejection.

16. The software acquisition method according to claim 15, wherein,
when authentication based on authentication information has failed, the controlling step specifies minimum resources so that said display section and operation panel section of the resources become available for the software components, when authentication based on the

For the feature of claim 15 see claim 15 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 3 rejection.

authentication information has succeeded, said controlling step specifies that all the resources are available for the software components.

17. The software acquisition method according to claim 16, wherein the authentication information includes information related to rights for using the respective resources by the software components, and

For the feature of claim 16 see claim 16 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 4 rejection.

the controlling step decides whether the software components can use the resources based on the information related to the using rights.

Same as claim 4 rejection.

18. The software acquisition method according claim 14, further comprising: transmitting configuration information for said image formation apparatus to said server when said image formation apparatus has succeeded in authentication based on the authentication information, wherein said server organizes software components executable on said image formation apparatus based on the configuration information received from said image formation apparatus, and sends the organized software components back to said image formation apparatus.

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of the features see claim 5 rejection.

19. The software acquisition method

For the feature of claim 18 see claim 18

according to claim 18, wherein

rejection. For the rest of the features
see claim 6 rejection.

in the transmitting step, identification
information for identifying said image
formation apparatus transmitted to said
server, and

said server identifies one or more
configuration information and a contract
form of said image formation apparatus
based on the identification information
received from said image formation
apparatus, organizes software
components executable on said image
formation apparatus based on the
identified configuration information
and/or contract form, and sends the
organized software components back to
said image formation apparatus.

20. The software acquisition method
according to claim 14, wherein said
server

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14
rejection. For the rest of the claim, see
claim 7 rejection.

Internet, and

said image formation apparatus has a
browser with which pages described
HTML are browsed.

27. A computer readable recording
medium for storing instructions, which
when executed on a computer, causes
the computer to realize a software
acquisition method in an image formation
system which connects an image
formation apparatus and a server to a
network, said image formation apparatus
having one or more hardware resources

Same as claim 1 rejection.

of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section and for providing one or more of services of a printer, a copier, or a facsimile, and said server providing a software component to said image formation apparatus, wherein said image formation apparatus performs steps of:

- selecting a desired software components accumulated in said server and displayed on said display section;

- acquiring the selected software component and authentication information from said server; and

- controlling a processing operation of the acquired software component based on the acquired authentication information.

28. A computer program for causing a computer to realize a software acquisition method in an image formation system which connects image formation apparatus and a server to a network, said image formation apparatus having one or more hardware resources of a display section, an operation panel section, a printing section, and an image pickup section and for providing one or more of services of a printer, a copier, or a facsimile, and said server providing a software component to said image formation apparatus, wherein said image formation apparatus performs steps of:

- selecting a desired software component from a list of software

Same as claim 1 rejection.

components accumulated said server and displayed on said display section;
acquiring selected software component and authentication information from said server; and
controlling a processing operation of the acquired software component based on the acquired authentication information.

14. Claims 8, 10-13, 21, 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,933,584 by Yoshio Maniwa (hereinafter "Maniwa"), in view of US2002/0010684 by Scott A. Moskowitz (hereinafter "Moskowitz").

CLAIM

8. The image formation system according to claim 7, wherein the software component acquired by said acquisition unit operates as a plug-in for said browser.

Maniwa / Moskowitz

For the feature of claim 7 see claim 7 rejection. Maniwa teaches all aspects of claim 8 except they don't mention the 'plug-in' feature, however, Moskowitz has showed this feature in an analogous prior art, in paragraph 0130, "Embodiments of the present invention may include a simple **Internet browser plug-in**, with complementary system **software** for the provider of 'information goods or services,' that would **identity, verify, authenticate**, enable transfer, enable copying or other manipulations of the various primary value-added information and value-added components."

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to supplement

Maniwa's multi-function peripheral (MFP) with the plug-in feature taught by Moskowitz, for the purpose of ensure the transaction is disclosed to be the use of highly-secure computer processing means for data identification, authentication (see Moskowitz Abstract, line 15).

10. The image formation system according to claim 1, wherein, one vendor manages said server, and another vendor can register a software component to said server by paying a particular registration fee to the vendor that manages the server.

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. Moskowitz claim 158, "wherein the device transacts according to at least one predetermination of at least an identity of the **vendor**, a plurality of conditions of the information transfer, a payment, and an identity of a separate but similar device." And Moskowitz, paragraph 200, "the output device administration table is a data group made up of the printer type 2602, name 2603, and detailed information 1604 such as finishing options according to the type and installation states of the printers **registered** as the printing destinations of the document **server** 102 in the printer settings." It's a normal commercial behavior that for any **vendor** who wants to register to a server will have to be **charged**, vendors would be expected to pay either **advisement fee** or **registration fee**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to supplement Maniwa's multi-function peripheral (MFP) with multiple vendors taught by

Moskowitz, for the purpose of charging valued information (see Moskowitz's paragraph 83).

11. The image formation system according claim 1, wherein one vendor is charged for an advertisement fee of a software component each time said image formation apparatus acquires the software component from said server.

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. For the rest of the claim 11 feature, see claim 10 rejection.

12. The image formation system according claim 11, wherein a server of the third-party vendor can be registered with said image formation apparatus as server allowed to be authenticated when third-party pays a particular registration fee.

For the feature of claim 11 see claim 11 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection.

13. The image formation system according to claim 12, wherein one or more of a charge for using said image formation apparatus and the registration fee paid by the third-party vendor is changed according to a range of resources available for said image formation apparatus.

For the feature of claim 12 see claim 12 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection.

21. The software acquisition method according to claim 20, wherein the software component acquired in the acquiring step operates as a plug-in for said browser.

For the feature of claim 20 see claim 20 rejection. For the rest of the features see claim 8 rejection.

23. The software acquisition method to claim 14, wherein, one vendor manages

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see

said server, and another vendor can register a software component to said server by paying a particular registration fee the vendor that manages the server.

claim 10 rejection.

24. The software acquisition method according to claim 23, wherein the vendor is charged for an advertisement fee of a software component each time said image formation apparatus acquires the software component from said server.

For the feature of claim 23 see claim 23 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection.

25. The software acquisition method according to claim 24, wherein a server of the third-party vendor can be registered with said image formation apparatus as a server allowed to be authenticated when the third-party pays a particular registration fee.

For the feature of claim 24 see claim 24 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection.

26. The software acquisition method according to claim 25, wherein one or more of a charge for using said image formation apparatus and the registration fee paid by the third-party vendor changed according range resources available said image formation apparatus.

For the feature of claim 25 see claim 25 rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 10 rejection.

15. Claims 9 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,933,584 by Yoshio Maniwa (hereinafter "Maniwa"), in view of US2001/0044857 by Tuan Huu Pham et al. (hereinafter "Pham").

CLAIM

9. The image formation system according claim 7, wherein said image formation apparatus further establishes a virtual machine that can execute CPU-independent, intermediate code, and the virtual machine executes the software components accumulated in said server in a form of intermediate code.

Maniwa / Pham

Maniwa teaches all aspects of the applicant's claims but it does not specifically mention the 'establishes a virtual machine' feature. However, in Pham, paragraph 0030, "The client device 120, the client controller 125, the host device 135, and the host controller 140 each typically include one or more hardware components and/or software components. An example of a client device 120 or a host device 135 is a **general-purpose computer** (e.g., a personal computer) capable of responding to and executing instructions in a defined manner. Other examples include a **special-purpose computer**, a workstation, a server, a device, a component, other physical or **virtual equipment** or some combination thereof capable of responding to and executing instructions." In addition, the 'virtual machine' and 'intermediate code' is a well-known concept in the art for JAVA™ programming environment.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to supplement Maniwa's multi-function peripheral with virtual equipment further taught by Pham, for the purpose of installing computer software components on a general purpose client device (see Pham Abstract, 1st line).

22. The software acquisition method

For the feature of claim 20 see claim 20

according to claim 20, wherein said image formation apparatus has a virtual machine that can execute CPU-independent intermediate code, and the virtual machine executes the software components accumulated in said server in a form of intermediate code. rejection. For the rest of the claim, see claim 9 rejection.

Conclusion

16. The following summarizes the status of the claims:

- 35 USC § 102 rejection: Claims 1-7, 14-20, 27-28
- 35 USC § 103 rejection: Claims 8-13, 21-26

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Ching Chow whose telephone number is 571-272-3693. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the **TC2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chih-Ching Chow

Examiner

Art Unit 2192

April 22, 2005

CC



ANTONY NGUYEN-BA
PRIMARY EXAMINER